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## **BARBOUR COUNTY'S SAINT LUKE AME CHURCH CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER**

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Saint Luke AME Church Cemetery in Louisville to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

"The cemetery register is a prestigious listing of historic cemeteries in Alabama," said Lee Anne Wofford, cemetery program coordinator. "The AHC considers the notable historic cemeteries in this register to be particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition."

There are now twelve cemeteries in Barbour County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 320 cemeteries statewide.

Saint Luke AME Church has been the religious focal point of the community for well over 100 years. The oldest marked grave in the cemetery is for Robert Morris who was born in 1824 and died in 1877. The graves are scattered over at least a four acre area and a majority of the older graves either have no markers of any kind or are marked only by cement ledger stones.

The Alabama Historical Commission administers the Alabama Historic Cemetery Program that gives aid to the general public, government officials, civic groups, and others in identifying, documenting, registering, and conserving Alabama's historic cemeteries.

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register officially recognizes and honors family and community cemeteries that were established at least 40 years ago.

Listing in the state cemetery register is an honorary designation imposing no restrictions on property owners. State law protects all cemeteries from willful desecration and destruction.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission**, the **State Historic Preservation Office**.*

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